

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Executive Comm. meets, elects officers

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The 2002-03 Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) met December 3 in the Baptist Building in Jackson to elect officers and take action on a number of pending items.

Clarence Cooper, pastor of Emmanuel Church in Grenada, was tapped by fellow committee members to serve as chairman for the coming year. Tupelo attorney Robert Upchurch was selected as vice-chairman, and Diane White of Meridian will serve as secretary.

The 16 Executive Committee members are elected each year from within the ranks of the MBCB by fellow board members. The election is held during the board's organizational meeting immediately following adjournment of the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Executive Committee members, who serve one-year terms, are charged with overseeing the programs and activities of the convention board when the full board is not in session.

In other business, the executive committee voted to provide a means to remove reversion clauses from church land deeds after 20 years of missions partic-

ipation. The clauses were inserted into deeds where the convention board purchased land for a church start, and allowed the board to reclaim the property if the church ceased to be a cooperating Mississippi Baptist church.

Removing the clauses will allow churches to borrow money for expansions and renovations without an encumbrance on the land deed. Churches less than 20 years old with deeds containing reversion clauses must still seek a legal "subordination" from the convention board.

The committee also approved an addition to the MBCB policy manual that mandates convention board employees "shall not participate or serve in any capacity with any group or engage in any activity that contradicts, is antithetical to, or in any way reflects in a negative and/or adverse manner on the mission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board."

MBCB Executive Director-Treasurer Jim Futral said the new policy is legally appropriate to proactively address any future problems.


The executive committee also approved two new MBCB members:

- Travis Gray, pastor of Duck Hill Church, Duck Hill, to fill the Montgomery Associa-

tion term of Gregg Woodard, former pastor of Scotland Church, Winona. Woodard recently accepted the call to pastor a church in Alabama.

- Albert Grey, pastor of Eden

Church, Yazoo City, to fill the Yazoo Association term of Andy May, former pastor of Holly Bluff Church, Holly Bluff. May recently accepted the call to pastor Pine Forest Church, Collinsville.



**Week of Prayer for International Missions and International Mission Study**  
Dec. 1-8, 2002

**That all peoples may know Him**

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**  
Offering goal: \$125 million

## NAMB commissions new missionaries in Denver

DENVER (BP) — Their destinations range from California to Connecticut. Their ages range from recent college graduates to senior adults. Some are married, some are single. Some are women, and some are men. Despite their differences, this diverse group shares one goal: to reach people in North America with the Gospel of Christ.

Sixty-eight North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries were commissioned Nov. 24 during a special service at Riverside Church in Denver.

Jackie Flake, who serves as a collegiate evangelism coordinator for western Connecticut, and Ed Pincusoff, a church planter who works with the Sausalito Christian Fellowship in Marin, Calif., both gave testimonies of God's call on their lives and the work he is currently doing through them.

Other missionaries' areas of service include urban ministry, churches in growing suburban areas, ethnic church plants, resort

ministries, collegiate ministries and several positions with state and regional Southern Baptist associations or conventions.

Following the testimonies, NAMB President Robert E. Reccord preached on Life's

Defining Moments. Drawing from the Gospel of Luke, Reccord pointed out that Jesus often stopped what he was doing to minister to people.

He quoted Scottish Bible teacher James Stewart, who

said, "It is often in the most unexpected moments of life that life's most life-changing moments leap upon life and radically change the future for a lifetime to come."

Reccord gave testimony of how God changed his own life while in medical school, and that meeting his wife and coming to know Jesus were two of his life's defining moments. Likewise, those missionaries present would forever have their commissioning burned into their memories as one of life's defining moments.

The missionaries were challenged to listen to God's voice and be willing to let him define their ministries. He encouraged them to allow God to stop them and to be on fire to tell the world about God's love. He left the audience with the question, "What about you?" and challenged them to stop where they were and obey God's call on their lives.



PRAYER FOR MISSIONARY — Members of Denver's Riverside Church pray for newly-commissioned missionary Amy Singletown (center) at the close of a Nov. 24 commissioning service by the North American Mission Board. (BP photo by Allen Spencer)

#BXNMY \*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT\*0037  
#0000 2911 2059#  
005 DTN  
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOC  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

DECEMBER 5, 2002

VOL. 126

No. 48


43

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD


Directions




Just for the Record



Sunday School lessons

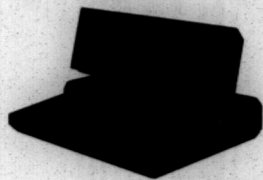


Baptist Children's Village





## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.  
Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

### EDITOR

William H. Perkins Jr.

### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tony Martin

### EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE

Anne Ranson

### LAYOUT/DESIGN

Lennie Young

### ADVERTISING

Dana Richardson

### CIRCULATION MANAGER

Brenda Quattlebaum

### BOOKKEEPER

Betty Anne Bailey

### EDITOR EMERITUS

Don McGregor

### Baptist Record Advisory Committee:

Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis  
Rick Henson, Brandon  
Ken Hester, Pontotoc  
Beverly Pyron, Natchez  
Billy Watkins, Madison  
Michael Weeks, Olive Branch  
Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster: Send changes of address  
to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box  
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send  
news, communication, and address  
changes to The Editor, BAPTIST  
RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS  
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800  
Fax: (601) 292-3330  
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 128 NUMBER 48  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi  
churches. Periodicals postage paid at  
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State  
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —  
one calendar week prior to requested pub-  
lication date. Advertising — two calendar  
weeks prior to requested publication date.

# Christmas forgotten

**I**t's amusing to watch, from a distance. I'm referring to the way people conduct themselves on the day after Thanksgiving — the day that has come to be known as "Black Friday," not for the ominous implications that go along with the word black when used as an adjective, but because of the volumes of black ink the day puts on a store's balance sheet.

Anxious shoppers line up by the hundreds (if not thousands) in the freezing cold of predawn Black Friday, excitedly awaiting the early openings of stores and malls. Manners are often forsaken when the doors are finally unlocked. Angry words and vulgar gestures quickly become the norm.

One television network aired videotape of people actually disrobing in the aisles of a store to try on clothing before anyone else had a chance to buy it.

Helicopters frenetically buzzed overhead, giving traffic updates and parking suggestions to both radio listeners in transit and television viewers preparing to leave the house. Does anyone know the cost per hour to keep a chopper in the air over a mall? Anyway, all the thoroughfares are jammed and there isn't a open parking place in the county.

Despite the drawbacks, Black Friday is electric with excitement and spirit. People with mouths packed full of junk food try their best to describe what the day means to them. Exhausted babies in strollers and grandmoms in jogging suits steal a few winks wherever they can. People with a half-dozen bags as big as projection TV sets make their way slowly and unsteadily through the parking lot.

Just about everyone has a good time — and not one mention of the real reason for the season is ever uttered. Jesus' name is seldom invoked, unless as part of the vilest slang when a shelf is discovered to be empty of a prize acquisition.

That is America today. The humble birth of the Messiah in a Bethlehem stable has become simply another excuse to party (as if Americans needed another excuse to party). The once-a-year celebration of our Lord's coming into the world, to save the world, is now nothing more than a compulsive shopping spree.

In other parts of the world, people line up in the cold but it's not for Black Friday. They come to hear the Gospel. A Mississippi Baptist recently returned from a winter-time volunteer mission trip to a particularly poor region of the world. He told of visiting a church with no heat, and no pews.

"We had to take the pews out to accommodate all the people," the pastor said. "They don't mind standing in the cold."

When the Mississippian asked why the church's large windows were wide open on such a frigid day, the pastor replied, "So the people outside can hear when the church inside is filled to capacity. They don't mind standing in the snow."

Americans don't mind standing in the snow, but it's not to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It's to be first in the store on Black Friday. It's to fill our bellies and empty our wallets. It's to store up our treasures on earth for another year.

What a pity. As a country, we no longer truly understand Christmas. If we are to stand in the snow anywhere, it should be

"I WAS JUST WONDERING IF THE CHURCH COULD PICK UP SOME OF THE SLACK THIS YEAR. THE NORTH POLE HAS DOWNSIZED AND OUR RESOURCES ARE DRYING UP AND THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN STRESSING FAITH-BASED MINISTRY AND ALL."



outside the doors to the church. If we are to rush into anywhere with the enthusiasm of Black Friday, it ought to be into church.

If we achieve a state of personal satiety, it should be because we are fulfilling our responsibility as Christian missionaries to take the Gospel to a lost world (Matt. 28:18-20), and not because we shopped until we dropped.

Now, that really would be a more productive way to spend Black Friday — and every other day of the year.

## GUEST OPINION:



### God is at work, around the world

By Wanda Lee, Executive Director-Treasurer  
Woman's Missionary Union

determined people. In addition, I met the courageous missionaries who have committed themselves to work alongside them.

Donna Robinson and Dan Whitfield, two International Service Corps missionaries who had served in Bosnia in 1999, were now in Kosovo leading the International Mission Board



### That all peoples may know Him

Week of Prayer for  
International Missions  
and  
International Mission Study  
Dec. 1-8, 2002

Lottie Moon Christmas  
Offering  
Offering goal: \$125 million

team. After a brief time at home when her term was completed, Donna shared her sense of call to return to the region. Dan wasn't far behind after serving as a missions minister for a time in his home state. Sitting at a table in a restaurant in the capital city of Pristina, I looked around at the faces of energetic college students who had come to help.

Baseball camps, English as a second language (ESL), and friendship building were the focus of their summer ministry.

Later that evening, I enjoyed fellowship with a young female journeyman whose mother works with Women on Mission through Texas WMU. Kelly uses ESL as an entry point into the lives of university students. Seated next to me was a career dentist and his wife who had transferred from Dominica. Melody shared how God had spoken to her 26 years ago while she was a Baptist Young Women member reading an article in Contempo magazine. What a diverse group of individuals uniting their calling and their gifts so that the people of Kosovo can hear the Gospel.

God is at work around the world. Missionaries are serving in difficult places making a difference for the name of Jesus. This December the faces of the people of Kosovo as well as the faces of the missionaries will be fresh before me. My praying will be personal and specific.

Who do you know serving in international missions? Remember that they need your specific prayers as well as your gifts so a world in need can meet the one true source of hope and peace: Jesus Christ.



# U.S. pauses; missionaries press forward

DAPAONG, Togo (BP) — As people paused and gathered for Thanksgiving with their families in the United States, Burt and Suzanne Schmitz, Southern Baptist missionaries to the Moba people group in northern Togo, West Africa, were serving God far from home in the midst of everyday circumstances.

As church planters among a fairly newly evangelized population, life is a series of days filled with challenges to meet and reasons to be thankful. Their daily work doesn't typically make headlines or cause thousands of souls to be saved, but they are faithful and God is watching.

Each day, villagers come to their home, looking for help with problems they face. Burt and Suzanne pray for God's wisdom in discerning which people genuinely need help and are thankful they are able to meet some of the needs because of Southern Baptists' generous giving through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

"Many times the people want money but they don't in fact really need help," Suzanne said. "That's why we pray over it and make sure God is impressing that person on us."

She explained that most times they help people who cannot afford necessary medical



UNDER THE MANGO TREE — As Americans observed Thanksgiving Day last week Southern Baptist missionaries in Togo (above) conducted Bible study underneath a mango tree. (BP photo)

attention elsewhere in the village. If someone brings the Schmitzes his medical record with a prescription included and God has impressed that person on Burt and Suzanne's heart, then they will help the person purchase the appropriate medicine. That same day, the person must return to the gate with a receipt or the actual medicine as proof that he spent the money as intended.

Their main focus in Togo is leadership development among the Moba so that indigenous churches can multiply. Of about 293,000 Moba in the region, less than half are literate. Typically, someone will be designated leader of a new church simply because he can read the Bible.

"We can't get very many people to commit to Christianity," Suzanne said. "Trust is a very hard thing for our people to do. They don't

trust one another because everyone wants to be number one, but they don't want their brother to do better than them."

Ancestor worship is dominant among the Moba, and the Schmitzes are challenged to communicate the emptiness of the practice of the people and point them in the direction of God himself through Jesus

Christ only. The Moba recognize that there is one God who created everything and is omnipotent, but they believe he is far-removed from the dealings of man. The Moba believe that the way to influence God is to communicate with Him through their ancestors, which leads them to believe that anything good that happens is because of the work of their ancestors and not God alone.

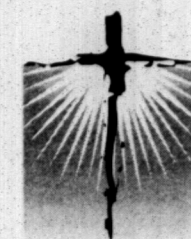
"First we tell them it's not biblical," Burt said. "We go to places in the Old Testament that refer to worship and show them that what they're doing is wrong. It's through a conviction of the Holy Spirit that the issue is dealt with. As new Christians learn more about God being a jealous God, they move from a point of worshiping the ancestors to worshiping the one true God. After receiving Christ, they realize they've been tricked by ancestor worship."

Because so few Moba are literate, Chronological Bible Storying has been an effective evangelistic tool.

"They love stories. When we do stories, they pass them back and forth throughout their village during the week until we come back and tell them another one," Suzanne said.

Only some portions of the New Testament have been translated into the Moba language, so the Schmitzes rely heavily on storying and on-the-spot translating. They also work through interpreters to convey the Scriptures to the people.

Burt said he hasn't kept a specific count of how many Moba have come to know Christ during their time there, but he knows that when they arrived in 1996 there were four Baptist churches in the region and now there are 11 churches and three "preaching points." Other evangelistic Christians are working in the same area and have also begun churches. The Schmitzes work with other Great Commission Christians to expand the reach of the Gospel among the Moba.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
*Record*

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

DECEMBER 5, 2002

VOL. 126

No. 48

## Numbers alarming

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Ninety-two percent of the unchurched will attend services sometime in a two-year period, but even when surrounded by believers, it still takes nearly 85 people to reach one person for Jesus Christ, according to a study by Thom S. Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at the Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. While Southern Baptists fare twice as well, with a 39 to one ratio, the numbers are still alarming, Rainer said.

"People need to be reaching lost people for Jesus," Rainer told participants at a church growth conference at Fleming Island Church in Orange Park, Fla. "There are 160 million lost people going to hell without Jesus Christ, and I ask you this night to say a prayer to God from your heart — 'Lord, according to your will, allow me to come into contact with someone that I might share Jesus Christ.'" Citing information from his latest study, Rainer, the author of "Surprising Insights of the Formerly Unchurched and Proven Ways to Reach Them," listed 10 criteria by which churches may understand how to reach people for the Lord Jesus Christ. Rainer said churches must have a clear understanding of what they believe if the unchurched are to be reached, and they must practice what they preach if they want to draw people. "The churches that are reaching the unchurched are clear about what they believe and they have conviction — clarity and conviction," Rainer said. "The unchurched are looking for churches that will state clearly, 'This is what we believe,' and have the backbone about it too."



**That all peoples  
may know Him**

Week of Prayer for  
International Missions  
and  
International Mission Study  
Dec. 1-8, 2002

Lottie Moon Christmas  
Offering  
Offering goal: \$125 million

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention seeks a shareholder action to confront Kmart over the sale of pornographic materials through its Waldenbooks subsidiary. The Annuity Board has a policy that prohibits investments in what are informally referred to as "sin stocks."

### 20 years ago

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, tells board members that he appreciated Mississippi Baptists because there is not the disunity in the state that is troubling Southern Baptists elsewhere. Mississippi Baptists are diverse but not divided, he noted.

### 50 years ago

A total of 16,693 baptisms are recorded for Mississippi churches the past convention year, according to figures compiled and released by C. E. Wilbanks, director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.



## BR holiday deadlines announced

Due to postal regulations that limit The Baptist Record to 50 issues per year, the newsjournal of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will not publish on December 26.

The final issue of 2002 will be December 19. All news items that must appear in the issue of December 19 must be received in the offices of The Baptist Record by the regular deadline of December 12. The deadline has passed for advertisements in the December 19 issue.

The first issue of 2003 will be January 2. All news and advertisements for the issue of January 2 must be received in the offices of The Baptist Record by the special deadline of December 12. The January 9 issue will return to regular deadlines.

For submission policies and addresses, please see the article at the bottom of page six of this issue.

## THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING — IT'S ABOUT HIM!

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is a special offering: a story of a lady, a strategy for the future, a challenge for the present, and a glimpse of eternity all rolled into one. Yet, more than that, in an essence what it really is about is Him! It is about Jesus! It is Jesus who had a vision large enough to save the whole wide world. It is Jesus who loved enough to sacrificially lay His life down so that we could be raised up. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is about Him!

### It's not about her, but it is about Him...

As wonderful as the Lottie Moon story is, as challenging as her 40 years of sharing the gospel in China was, as faithful and dedicated as she was, and as great an impact as she made, Charlotte Diggs Moon (Lottie) would no doubt be among the first to say, "It's not about me, it's about Him!"

### It's not about a program, but it is about Him...

The mission strategy of Southern Baptists to reach every people group on the planet with the Gospel is at the same time both mind-boggling and exciting, but it is not about a program, it's about Him!



Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

### It's not about money, but it is about Him...

Of course, money is an important part of an offering and Mississippi Baptists, through the years, have given faithfully and sacrificially to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Over the past 10 years their total giving has surpassed 60 million dollars; but this offering is not just about money, it's about Him!

### It's not about the Baptist Faith & Message, but it is about Him...

While it is obvious that people have various views of how they feel about the Baptist Faith & Message and some of the things that it states, we need to clearly focus on a world that is lost without Jesus and remember this offering is not about our theological discussions, it's about Him!

### It's not about our missionaries, but it is about Him...

Thank God for the hundreds and thousands of gifted, warm-hearted, God-called men and women who are seeing a world without boundaries and are going into all the world to tell the Good News. In 2001, for

# Directions

the first time in our history we broke the 1,000 mark in missionary appointments. Again, this year over 1,100 missionaries have been appointed to go to lands and languages all around the globe — loving, courageous, visionary missionaries; but it is not about them, it's about Him!

### It's not about passion, but it is about Him...

At times, we focus on the missionary zeal of Southern Baptists. We point out what an important dimension it is that we maintain our urgency and our passion to reach a world for Christ and that is good; but this offering is not about passion, it's about Him!

Of course, as you read each of these things, you recognize that it encompasses each dimension, whether the story of Lottie Moon, our missionary strategy, the money that is given, what our missionaries believe, the kind of people we send to the world, or the drive that keeps them on the cutting edge of evangelistic concern — it is all of these things that grow out of our relationship with Him.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and season of prayer

for International Missions is a great time in our churches. During this intense time of prayer, reflection, and offering to God our life and substance, it seems as though Lottie Moon comes and consistently does three things among us:

- **Lottie lifts.** Through this experience we are reminded and we return to the vision our Lord gave us when He said, "Lift up your eyes on the fields for they are white already to harvest." We lift our eyes and see above our discouragement, or pettiness, or personal preference.

- **Lottie sifts.** It's likely that through this wonderful, intense experience the Lord sifts through our priorities and the things that have become so important to us lose some of their significance and luster and the things that are important to the heart of God come to take their rightful place.

- **Lottie shifts.** She shifts our attention to the things that are eternal in a world that seems to be so wrapped up in itself and consumed with things of momentary, earthly value. Lottie reminds us that we and all of those around us have an eternal destiny, and we cannot lose sight of the foreverness of our existence.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

It's all about Him, forever!

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH BRUCE CARROLL

North Greenwood Baptist Church  
Greenwood, Mississippi

Sunday, December 15 - 6:00 p.m.

Winner of five (5) multiple Dove and two (2) Grammy Awards  
Writer of Eleven (11) # 1 Songs

For more information, call 662-453-2801 Love Offering



## MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**STUDENT MINISTER SOUGHT BY** church averaging 154 in Sunday School/70 in Discipleship Training. Mail to Longview Baptist, c/o Johnny Sykes, 406 Dozier Hill Rd., Belden, MS 38826. Church located 6 miles east of Pontotoc, MS/10 miles west of Tupelo, MS.

**SEEKING TO FILL NEW POSITION:** Children's Director, Immanuel Baptist Church, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180, contact person: Donnie Tedford at (601) 636-0482.

**ADATON BAPTIST CHURCH,** Starkville, Miss., seeks full-time Director of Children's Ministry for nursery through sixth grade children. Seminary training and/or related experience or education preferred. Send resume to Adaton Baptist Church, ATTN:

DOCM Search Chairman, 1975 Highway 82 West, Starkville, MS 39759.

**THE TRI-COUNTY IS SEEKING AN** Associate Associational Missions Director to assist in missions involvement and education. Resumes may be sent to Tri-County Baptist Missions, P.O. Box 350, Columbia, MS 39429. Resumes will be received until December 31, 2002.

**ADATON BAPTIST CHURCH,** Starkville, Miss. is seeking an individual for full-time Music Minister position. Please contact the church at (662) 323-3735 for more information. Send resume to ABC, 1975 Hwy. 82 West, Starkville, MS 39759.

**SEEKING FULL-TIME MINISTER OF** music/youth. Please send resumes to Otter Creek First Baptist Church, 13000 Quail

Run Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72210, Attention: Martha Owens.

**JOB OPENING - NEWLY RESTRUCTURED** position. Preschool Ministry Director; full-time position, Harrisburg Baptist Church. Salary \$25-30 k; call for job description at (662) 842-6917.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED:** To assist pastor and staff. Send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, 503 18th Avenue, N., Columbus, MS 39705, (662) 327-7882 or BroRoy@cableone.net

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH,** Hattiesburg, Miss. is currently seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resumes: c/o Music Search, Calvary Baptist Church, 3139 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 60 cents per word, minimum of ten words; maximum of fifty words. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. **ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED.**

**AMERICA'S FASTEST GROWING** Christian Long Distance Company. No monthly service charge, 4.9 cents/minute, 6-second billing, toll-free (866) 736-7869. www.covenantphoneservice.com - Agent opportunity available.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE** estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

**ATTENTION MINISTERS** and self-employed. Finally affordable health insurance; call (662) 568-3482.

**AAA CONTAINERS, LLC: FOR SALE,** used 40' and 20' long x 8' tall x 8' wide steel shipping containers. Excellent for storage buildings. \$1,500.00 to \$2,500.00. Delivered 100 mile radius. (601) 823-4747, Brookhaven, Miss.

**HOPPER GLASS STUDIO - CUSTOM** church windows, reworking and repair - Columbus/Jackson. (877) 477-1899.

**A BRAND NEW QUEEN** Orthopedic mattress set. NEW in plastic w/warr., sell \$119.00, call (601) 209-0872.

**A QUEEN MATTRESS SET, PILLOW-**top. NEW in plastic, sell \$175.00, call (601) 209-0872.

**A BRAND NEW KING ORTHOPEDIC** mattress set, NEW in plastic, ONLY \$189.00, call (601) 209-0872.

**FOR SALE: ALLEN DIGITAL ORGAN** w/speakers, like new. This organ costs \$20,000 + in 1980; buy ours for \$8,000. We also have for sale twenty-five choir robes, kelly green with gold/white reversible stoles in very good condition. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 3600 Glendale Road, P. O. Box 5294, Greenville, MS 38704, (662) 335-3296.

**HOMEMADE: CHRISTMAS NATIVITY** yard sets, and other items. Call George Taylor anytime at (601) 922-1573.

**CUSTOM STAINED GLASS WINDOWS** for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. (800) 605-2970.

**GATLINGBURG GETAWAY: 2 BR/2** Bath, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway. \$65/night, call for information at (251) 666-2175.

**HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS,** Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. Call (800) 368-2705 or fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958.

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY,** Inc., old bibles rebound. Also church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743. Located at 107 North Stone Avenue, Greenwood, MS 38930.

**PARADISE LANES: MISSISSIPPI'S** only smoke and alcohol free bowling center. Call about lock-in, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS, (601) 372-7700.

**BRANSON, MO CONDO, SMOKE-FREE,** no pets, walk in. Sleeps 6, totally furnished 2 BD/2 BTH, reduced rates, groups welcomed. Call (662) 746-4632.

**NORTH PULASKI BAPTIST Association,** North Little Rock, Arkansas, accepting resumes for Associational Missionary. NPBA is an urban/rural association of 52 churches whose vision is to involve churches in direct mission projects at the local, state, national and international level and to develop leadership for Kingdom activity. Send resume: NPBA, 251 Indian Bay Drive, Sherwood, AR 72120-3412.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

December 5, 2002

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## MISSISSIPPI STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

January 27-28, 2003  
Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo  
One State Evangelism Conference with two tracks  
Opening session Monday 1:30 p.m.

### WOMEN'S TRACK Radical Christianity – Just for Women

Jaye Martin, Women's Consultant, NAMB

No registration required

For more info, call the Mississippi WMU  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3324



## North Mississippi Women's Retreat

"A seeking heart: rediscovering true worship"  
March 14-15, 2003, Central Hills Baptist Retreat Center

Featuring Sarah Groves  
author & musician  
Fayetteville, Ark.



Sponsored by the Miss. WMU. For more info contact Kathy Burns at  
1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3324 or e-mail at kburns@mbcb.org



## STATE YOUNG MUSICIANS CHORAL FESTIVAL

An Exciting Time of  
Praise and Worship

Mississippi College Coliseum  
Clinton  
April 5, 2003  
8:15 a.m.-1 p.m.

Guest Conductor  
Wayne Causey  
Minister of Music  
Forest Hills BC  
Nashville



### EVALUATION

A special session is planned for  
Friday evening, April 4, at FBC,  
Clinton, Miss., beginning at 7 p.m.  
for those desiring evaluation.

### Required Music

The following anthems are from the Winter 2002-03 Young  
Musician Magazine, available on the dated literature order form.

- "You Alone Are God" by Thompson/Martin
- "Heart to Heart" by Braman
- "Sing to the Lord a New Song" by Larson
- "In the Presence of the Lord" #440 Baptist Hymnal

The following anthems will be in stock at LifeWay Christian Store:

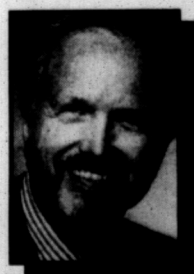
- \* "Jesus, Friend of Children" by Jeff Reeves
- \* "The Wonder of You" by Kathy Bowen

The festival brochure is available from the Church Music Department. For more  
information, call the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3271.

## 2003 Senior Adult Gulfshore Conferences

For more info, contact Discipleship & Family  
Ministry at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3283

I  
May 13 - 16  
Cost: \$139



Frank Boggs

II  
May 19 - 21  
Cost: \$97



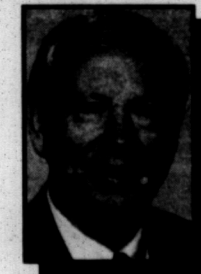
Harold Bryson

III  
May 22 - 24  
Cost: \$97



Gene Henderson

IV  
Sept. 30 - Oct. 2  
Tues. - Thurs.  
Cost: \$97



Bill Baker

G U E S T S P E A K E R S



JULY 17-19 **Cent-Kid** 2003

**Making Faith the  
Fabric of Our Lives**

**GREAT WORSHIP  
FELLOWSHIP  
CREATIVE BIBLE STUDY  
TEAM SPORTS  
GAMES  
MUSIC  
FISHING  
ARCHERY  
AND MORE!**



Cent-Kid offers a quality Christian camp experience for children who have completed grades 3-6, combining quality worship with age-appropriate activities designed - from start to finish - to reach children with the message of Jesus Christ.

## Spin Cycle

is all about the good things that can spin out of our lives when we have a strong relationship with the Lord, and ultimately how that's reflected in us - through things like kind words, positive thoughts, and good deeds. After all, the best way to show our faith is by what we say and how we behave - it's a chance to "shout it out!"

**Cost: \$132 per person**

Small-group Bible study follows the morning celebration, helping each child focus on the theme for the day and the application of God's Word. From there campers choose from a variety of creative and exciting courses - known as "tracks" - that allow them opportunity to develop their talents and interests.

For more info: Sunday School Department, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3292

The 2003  
The Youth  
The Youth

## MISSISSIPPI YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

A.E. WOOD COLISEUM  
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, CLINTON  
DECEMBER 30-31, 2002

Registration begins at noon.  
First session starts at 2 p.m.  
Concludes Tuesday at 3 p.m.



Adam Robinson  
Birmingham



Ken Smith  
Tomball, Tex.



Michael John  
Clement  
Anniston, Ala.



Landon Dowden  
New Orleans

This YEC is made possible by gifts through the Generosity Program to Mississippi Baptist churches.

For more info, contact the MBCB Evangelism Dept.  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3278.



## Church Business Administration Conference

January 30, 2003  
First Baptist Church, Madison

January 31, 2003  
West Ellisville Baptist Church, Ellisville

**Making Our Church a Safer Place**

For more info, call the Pastor/Leadership Development at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305

Last year we took you on a **Road Trip**, now come and see where it will lead..

## Camp Garaywa 2003 GA/Acteens Summer Camp

**GA Camp:** June 2-6, 9-13, 16-20, 23-27; June 30-July 4, July 7-11, 14-18, 21-25

**Acteens Camp:** July 7-11

**Registration opens March 1, 2003.**

Cost is \$125 per person for GA's and Acteens.

For more information, contact the State WMU at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 316, or 601-292-3316.



## Fresh Start Divorce Recovery Workshop

Saturday, January 18, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Lincoln Association Office  
640 Halbert Heights Road, Brookhaven

**Keynote Speaker: James Haynes**  
Minister of Counseling & Singles  
FBC, Biloxi

Free child care provided  
PoBoy plate lunch, \$10 by January 13

### Break-Outs:

Proverbs 31 Woman

Jan Halford, Jackson

Is There a Real Man in the House?

Wayne Hudson, Vancleave

Letting Go of the Past

Dot Day, Hazelhurst

Self-Esteem, Mike Reid, Brookhaven

Sponsored by the Lincoln Baptist Association and  
MBCB. For more information call 601-833-8111



# Unique?

## Stand out from the crowd?

The Christian Performing Arts Festival is designed  
with you in mind.



- Drama
- Clowning
- Puppets
- Church Recreation
- Youth Ministry
- Media
- Missions

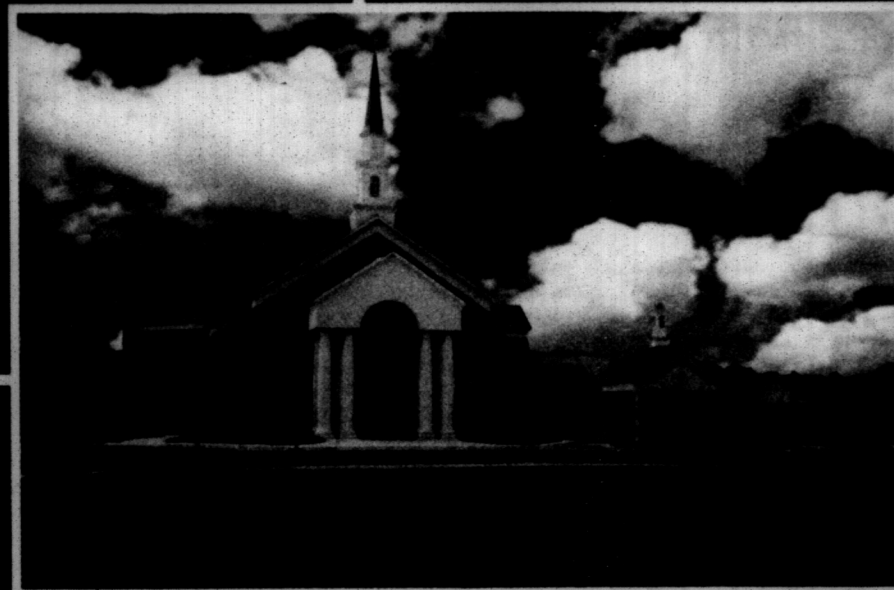
conferences

**FEBRUARY 21-22, 2003**

For more info, call Harvey Ellis, Discipleship and Family Ministry  
1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3286 or e-mail Hgellis@mbcb.org.

### MISSISSIPPI STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

January 27-28, 2003  
Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo



*"A Moment of Destiny"*

Isaiah 6:1-8

For more info, contact the MBCB Evangelism Department  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800



### 2003 BAPTIST DOCTRINE STUDY PREVIEWS

## Doctrine of Prayer

with T.W. Hunt

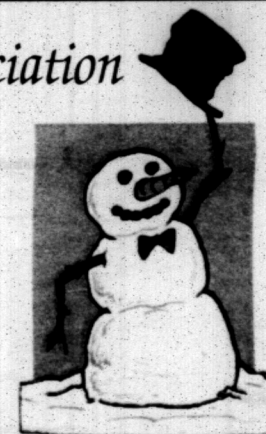
Pre-registration is requested. All previews are from 9 a.m.-noon.  
The cost is \$10, which includes registration for the preview,  
brunch and a copy of the study course book.

For more info, call Discipleship & Family Ministry 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3284

### Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association

## WINTER RETREAT January 17-18, 2003

Patterson Place  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton



### "The Counselor and Ministry in the Middle of Crisis"

Our emphasis is moving through the crisis, not staying there. We will define crisis and crisis intervention techniques and also how to minister to ourselves as well as others.

Our retreat will be led by Dr. Larry D. Henderson of Little Rock, Ark. He has served as a chaplain in the military and is a pastoral counselor in private practice.

There is no cost for members/spouses of the association. For nonmembers the cost is \$60 per person. To register for the Winter Retreat or to get more information, please return the registration form below, or call Elaine Smith at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3286, or e-mail Hgellis@mbcb.org.

### Mississippi Baptist Chaplain's Association Winter Retreat January 17-18, 2003 Patterson Place, Camp Garaywa, Clinton

\_\_\_\_ Number of people attending the retreat  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reservation Deadline — January 10, 2003

Mail to: Elaine Smith, Chaplaincy  
MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530  
\_\_\_\_ I want information only at this time. Please send to above address.

## 2003

## Deacon Ministry Emphasis



### Deacon Ministry Emphasis . . .

is a plan with specific actions that highlight deacon ministries and involves deacon training and service.

### The Purpose Of Deacon Emphasis Is To:

- Focus on their biblical role
- Build team relationships
- Secure involvement in ministries
- Develop skills for ministry

Deacon Emphasis Week is scheduled for January 12-19, 2003, but a deacon ministry emphasis may be conducted at any time during the year.

For more info, call the Pastor/Leadership Development at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305



# Pray this day for...

December 6, 2002 - January 9, 2003

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1 (800) 787-7729 (PRAY)

*"Let us pray for those who have never known Jesus Christ and his redeeming love, for moral forces everywhere, for our national leaders."*

*Robert Edward Lee*

Pray for dozens of students who are preparing to spend this Christmas in China. Pray that each one of this large group of students will be diligent in spiritual preparation. Pray that through their witness, many Chinese young people will come to know Christ.

Tea.n Corsica of France shares this need: "The first three prayerwalking teams scheduled for the fall have been canceled for various reasons. Ask that people will become burdened to come and intercede on site so that they will be better able to petition with insight."

Dawn M. Wilder is a church and community missionary in Overland Park, Kans. Pray for larger facilities for their ministries, for volunteers in multi-housing congregations, judicial ministries, women's job corps, family-friendly homeless shelters, and a health clinic. Ask God's blessing on the labor of his servants in these fields.

A Hindu cook in India, who cooked food for participants at a training center, became interested in the gospel. He eventually gave his life to Christ. Pray for R., that he would grow in his walk with God.

Team Warsaw is asking you to join them in prayer as they seek to launch Project Sow in March 2003 in Warsaw, Poland. Project Sow is an effort to sow the gospel broadly via the medium of the internet, in an effort to reach 200 of Warsaw's more than 230,000 university students with the gospel through a Website called VitaNovis.

Several states in India, now have regulations that make it illegal to either change religions or entice others to do so. Christians offering humanitarian aid could be accused of leading people into conversions. Pray for legislation that guarantees constitutional freedom of beliefs.

"The Baptist Hour" has been changed to "Strength for Living" to better reflect its shorter format. Pray for this weekly radio program that currently features Dr. Robert E. Rocco, President of the NAMB, who replaced Dr. Frank Pollard, who retired in December 2001 from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Jackson.

Pray for Clark and Valerie Rumpfelt who have been appointed as missionaries to Toronto, Canada, by the North American Mission Board. They plan to leave for their field of service early in January. Remember them and the members of their family as they prepare to go.

For: (1) Youth Evangelism Conference, Mississippi College, Clinton, 2:30 p.m., 30th - 3:30 p.m., 31st (Evang.); (2) Please pray today for President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia (eastern Europe and northern and western Asia).

Please pray for peace in all of Sudan. Peace talks have just recently resumed, but there is still much fighting going on. Travel is becoming more and more dangerous in some areas. The potential is there for any area to become a target at any time.

Richard Hancock, of Columbia, Md., is a consultant/specialist with the state convention in evangelism, partnership missions and prayer. Pray for wisdom as he concludes his first year there and as he develops strategies to reach more than 4 million people without Christ.

Missionary Doni Robinson of the Family Nurturing Center Team, Taichung, Taiwan, asks for prayer for the owner of the Xerox shop near her home: "We have him typing evangelistic literature so that he will be exposed to the gospel. He professes faith in the Yi-gwang dau, a mixture of Chinese folk religion and Christianity.

Derek Spain is a resort missionary/pastor of Lake Placid Baptist Church, Lake Placid, N.Y. Pray as he develops innovative ministries to reach tourists, athletes and locals. Pray for God to open doors for personal evangelism and for mission teams to go to New York.

Raymond Shih is a church planter in Tracy, Cal. He is seeking to plant a "tri-lingual" church - two Chinese dialects and English. Pray that the church plants will continue to grow as the church seeks to be financially independent by June 2003.

Tobacco-related diseases kill over 1 million Chinese a year. Pray that the 300 million Chinese smokers, who buy 1,650 trillion cigarettes annually, will find freedom in the Lord.

In Poland, every school has a religion class normally taught by a local church priest or a nun. Through one of our Baptist representatives, we have been invited to teach the religion class for a school here. Please pray that God will use it to bring many of these students to Christ.

Japan's most unreached segment is its men. In Japanese churches, women outnumber men 2-1. The Japanese man is known stereotypically for drinking weekly with his work buddies, smoking, and spending little time at home. Pray for an entrance for missionaries into the Japanese male culture so that the gospel can be presented.

CHRISTMAS - Pray that, during this season, we Christians all over the world will commit ourselves to sharing the good news of Christ, who will bless the lives of all who will personally accept Him by faith.

NEW YEAR'S DAY - Pray that this will be a year of peace all over the world. Pray especially that war can be avoided in Iraq and that a peace treaty can be worked out between Israel and Lebanon.

For: (1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS, 8th - 10th; (2) A top, very influential Zambian government official has attended a local Baptist church for two consecutive Sundays and has expressed a clear desire to continue to do so. Please pray that this official will open his heart to the Lord.

Missionary Mike Burrow has nine showings of the "Jesus" video scheduled through December. Five of these showings are in heavily Digo-populated areas of Kenya and Tanzania. It will be shown in their mother tongue, Chidigo. Pray that this will open many doors to minister to the Digo people.

Pakistani Muslim girls do not have the same opportunities as their brothers to go to school and learn to read. Pray for these girls and women to be able to hear the gospel through other means such as radio, television, video or audio cassettes or from a friend who personally tells them God's stories of redemption.

Pray for the wisdom of the Ile-de-France Team as they make and implement ambitious plans for outreach and distribution during the 2002-2003 school year in preparation for 2003 being the "Year of the Bible" in France. Pray for volunteers to respond to the call to help distribute thousands of gospel portions throughout the Ile-de-France region.

John Mark Hansen is director of missions for the Northeast Association in Norfolk, Neb. Pray for Pierce County where they hope to start a new church, for bivocational church planters, and for 19 new missions/ministry points in the association including Hispanic, Native, and Anglo works.

Believers in other parts of the world are undergoing severe persecution on a daily basis for the name of Christ. Imprisonment, beating, slavery and sexual abuse are common. Pray for God's protection and courage. Pray that His peace that passes all understanding will envelop our suffering brothers and sisters.

Pray that the leaders of our country will embrace the God-given ministry of public service. Pray that their hearts would cry out to the Lord. Pray specifically for Christians who serve in Congress (staffers and legislators). Ask God to grant them boldness and confidence to stand for Him.

A new doctor is needed at the Baptist Clinic in Chiangklang, Thailand. Please pray that God will call out someone faithful to fill this position and bring the gospel to the Hill tribes of Northern Thailand.

For: (1) Preschool Children/Ministers' Christmas Party, Baptist Building, Sky Room, Jackson, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Please pray today for Governor Sila M. Calderon of Puerto Rico (eastern Caribbean Sea).

Pray that God would lead in the lives of the elders of the Mokole villages of Benin, that those who are well respected in their culture would come to Christ. Pray that these "gatekeepers" would open wide the village gates so that even the children would be free to hear and accept Christ's love and salvation.

For: (1) Camp Staff Reunion; Camp Garaywa, Clinton 3rd - 4th (WMU); (2) Pray for Saudi Arabia believers to persevere in their faith despite the threat of persecution.

Thank you for praying for I, a community leader in Ethiopia, who wanted to learn more about Jesus. I's meetings with the Muslim-background believer went well. He spent 10 days with the man who came to teach him. He was interested in all that was shared and shed tears of joy over some of what he learned.

Please intercede for missionary Kent Shirley, who serves among the Aymara people of Bolivia, as he recuperates from surgery. It is anticipated that after a month of healing therapy will begin.

Pray for the Nomads of The Persian Gulf of which there are at least seven distinct groups. Each group has its own language and culture and needs its own evangelistic outreach and church-planting efforts. Pray that a respected family in each community will become believers and will open their tent for a church to meet there.

Recently, in five of the seven countries in the South Asia Region, there have been incidents of bombings and physical violence between ethnic and political opponents. In all seven countries, Christians face persecution. Pray that Christians will not let a spirit of fear rule their lives as they deal with stress from living in dangerous situations.

Pray for passion for the Western Hungary Team and the national Hungarian leaders. Because the field is so hard, it tends to dull the enthusiasm and persistence for sharing with people the life-changing news they so desperately need to hear.



For security, cards will be forwarded.  
Please send all to:

Child's name and parent's name  
MBCB Stewardship Dept.  
PO Box 530  
Jackson MS 39205

3-84 Mr. David J. Collins  
Parents: Charles & Suzanne  
Business Management:  
The Caribbean Basin

4-85 Mr. David M. Johnston  
Parents: Vincent & Sharon  
Church Planting:  
Eastern South America

12-02 Miss Alice A. Mullins  
Parents: Frank & Lynn  
Church Planting:  
Western Europe

16-01 Mr. Haddon Bledsoe  
Parents: David & Laurie  
General Evangelism:  
Eastern South America

24-94 Miss Abigail L. Packard  
Parents: Michael & Sabrina  
Church Planting:  
West Africa

24-00 Mr. Nathaniel Peacock  
Parents: Kevin & Brenda  
Theological Education:  
Middle America

HOUSE TOPS



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson**, will present A Singing Christmas Tree Dec. 6-8 at 6:30 p.m. The event is free but tickets are preferred. For more information or tickets, contact Steve Bufkin at (601) 372-7812.

**John Jacobs and The Power Team**, a nationally-known group of athletes bringing an inspirational message through physical strength, will appear live during a two-day crusade Dec. 13 and 14 from 7-9 p.m. at the Petal Performing Arts Center, Petal. Donations will be taken at the door. For more information, call (601) 544-7342.

**Christmas on Reflection Lake** will be presented Dec. 18-27 at 7 p.m. at the Gilead Retreat and Conference Center. The drama can be seen and

heard from inside the Conference Center. For more information, call (662) 234-4465, (662) 534-0659, (662) 869-1994, or (662) 224-8518.

The Sanctuary Choir of **First Church, Greenwood**, invites the public to their Christmas Program, Celebrate the Savior, on Dec. 7 and 8 at 6:00 p.m. For more information, call (662) 453-3075.

**First Church, Sledge**, held an Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Party on Nov. 9 for the children. They were taught about missions and they made pictures and wrote letters to go in the boxes.

The **Jaybird Saints of Grays Creek Church, Hernando**, held a meeting of prayer and



Jaybird Saints of Grays Creek Church, Hernando

thanksgiving on Nov. 12. They are preparing fruit baskets for their shut-ins.

## OBITUARY

**William Roy Swenson**, born May 19, 1921, passed away Oct. 28 following a lengthy illness.

*Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, and steeples.*

**Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery**

Toll Free  
1-800-821-7263

Swenson, a veteran of the Army Air Corps in World War II, attended Mississippi College in Clinton and New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans. He served as pastor of several Mississippi churches including Ora, Collins; Horseshoe, Tchula; Montgomery, Summit; Eden, Yazoo City; Mount Zion, Waynesboro;



Swenson

and Duncan, in Bolivar County. Swenson served as a U.S. Navy Chaplain, and with the SeaBees in Vietnam.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Sarah; two sons, two daughters, four grandchildren, three great grandchildren, one brother and two sisters.

### WHY PAY MORE FOR LIFE INSURANCE?

FEMALE, NONTABACCO, SELECT CLASS 1

AGE	\$100,000
40	9.98
55	18.46
70	51.80

CALL NAPIER INSURANCE, Knoxville, TN  
Toll Free 1-800-274-0776 \*9-9 Mon. - Sat.  
LTG Ultra-C 10 policy form no. LTG-2000D is a term life insurance policy with guaranteed level premiums for 10 years. Illustrated monthly premiums show are for female, non tobacco, Select, Class 1. It is issued by the One Line Life Insurance Company of America, Milwaukee, WI. Premiums increase at the end of the guaranteed term if policy is renewed. Premiums for other rate classes, age and payment plans are available upon request. Death benefits remain level and is payable in lump sum or installments, if so elected. The insurance company may contest the policy for two years from date of policy issue for material misstatements or omissions on the application. Death benefit payable from any cause, except suicide in the first two years, policy benefit is limited to return of premium paid. Not available in all states.

### GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP.

invites your indication of interest to:

### FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS

EARN UP TO: 8.5%

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed IRA. Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

### Interest Payable Quarterly

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers are made by prospectus only.

### GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP.

5408-A Bell • Amarillo TX 79109  
Member NASD, SIPC

For more complete information about bond issues, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of the undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value, subject to availability.

CALL OR RETURN THIS TO:

Martin Northern 800-468-3007  
PO Box 1302 501-316-3100  
Benton, AR 72018-1302 Fax 501-316-3110

Please send me information on the First Mortgage Church Bonds currently being offered by Great Nation Investment Corp.

The Holiday Baseball Camp at **William Carey College**, Hattiesburg, will be conducted Dec. 26-28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Coach Bobby Halford will be assisted by former Carey Coach, John Stephenson, who has served as a New York Mets. catching instructor, and minor league manager and coach for the past eight years. For more information, call (601) 318-6110 or (601) 318-6192, or write Bobby Halford Baseball Camp, William Carey College, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS. 39401, or email bhalford@wmcarey.edu.

The **Blue Mountain College** Department of Music will present the annual Christmas Carol Concert on Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Garrett Hall Auditorium, BMC. The pro-

gram will feature the Chorale and Handbell Choir. Admission is free. For more information, call (662) 685-4771, extension 163.

The Singers of the **Mississippi College** Department of Music will be performing the Festival of Lights Dec. 5-7 at 7:30 p.m. in Provine Chapel, MC. Admission is \$5 and will be available at the door or by calling (601) 925-3440.

Former Mississippi College law professor, **Mary Libby Payne**, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the recent national conference of the Christian Legal Society in Savannah, Ga. Payne has been a member of the CLS since 1978, bringing a student chapter to MC School of Law that year and serving as its faculty advisor.

## "Consecrate, for tomorrow..." Youth Ministry Lab April 4-5, 2003



Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Touch the World...Impact Eternity

www.swbts.edu



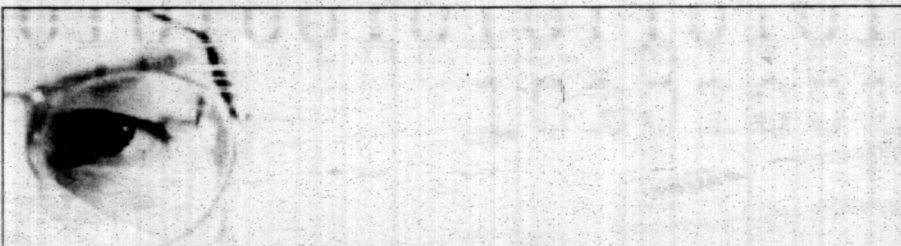
## 1119 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

More than 1100 churches throughout Mississippi put their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive insurance services including property, general, and specific liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages. Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.



**Wellington Associates, Inc.**



Some people say technology has no soul, no spirit.

We know it does.

Maybe it means patients receive their medicines earlier. Or it may mean our physicians can handle their paperwork more efficiently. And just maybe it means someone's grandmother goes home sooner. At Baptist, our dedication to advanced information systems technology is just another part of the spirit of healthcare.

Baptist Medical Center has recently recognized as one of the nation's "100 Most Wired Hospitals" by Hospitals and Health Networks Magazine

1-800-948-6262 • www.mbhs.org  
1225 N. State St. • Jackson, MS

**Baptist**  
MEDICAL CENTER



# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## Using Ordinary People

Luke 1:26-35, 38, 46-49

By Shirley Stough

How do we respond when God wants to use us in His plan? Often we back away in bewilderment or with excuses of inadequacy. We feel we are not talented or prominent enough to be used as God's servant. Yet when God fulfilled His prophecy to send a Messiah, He used ordinary people to inaugurate the plan. The gospel of Luke reveals the most detailed account of events surrounding Jesus' birth. These events reveal how God used ordinary humans of various ages and circumstances in His plan to bring Jesus, the Messiah, into the world. Just as he used a humble elderly couple to give birth to the forerunner of Jesus' coming, he used Mary, a simple peasant girl, to be the mother of

Jesus. Mary's response to God's call is an example of how we should respond when God wants to use us in His redemptive plan.

First, Mary was open to hear from God. Luke 1:26-29 records God taking the initiative in calling Mary to be part of His plan. God sent Gabriel to deliver His message. A teenaged girl from a humble background, Mary was righteous, though not sinless. She was a virgin engaged to marry Joseph, a carpenter. Mary was not so much afraid of the angel as she was perplexed by the message. Why would God choose to bestow such grace on a lowly, peasant girl? Mary did not receive this honor because of her deeds. God chose her, and Mary heard the message because she



Stough

was open to hear Him. God may not send us a message in such an extraordinary way. However, if we are open to Him, He can use us in extraordinary ways.

Next, Mary learned God's plan (Luke 1:30-33). Gabriel revealed the initial role Mary would play in God's redemptive plan. Her role would be unusual: she would be the virgin mother of God's own Son, Jesus. Through Mary and Joseph, God would be fulfilling His promise to bring forth a Messiah from the House of David. Mary needed to know more than the fact that God was going to use her. She needed to know what she should do.

Then, Mary made a humble commitment (Luke 1:34-35, 38). Mary's response to God's plan was bewilderment. She questioned not that it would be done but how it would be done. She knew that virgins did not give birth. How would God work all of this out? She was told that the conception would be supernatur-

al through the power of the Holy Spirit. Though she did not understand it or have all the details, she trusted God to fulfill His promise in His own way. She humbly committed herself to His will regardless of the cost. God can do extraordinary things with us when we are committed to Him. He can perform things that we cannot understand or explain for there is no limit to His power. There is no work that cannot be accomplished by Him. He does not reveal his entire plan when He calls us. However, He does expect us to hear and obey.

Finally, Mary expressed grateful praise (Luke 1:46-49). After Gabriel's appearance, Mary visited Elizabeth. Upon hearing Mary's story, Elizabeth reinforced the message delivered by Gabriel. Realizing her role in God's redemptive plan, Mary magnified and praised God for what He was doing through her and through Jesus. She was not boasting but humbly acknowledging that God had bestowed a great privilege on

her. Although Mary felt honored, she remained humble. She is an example of how we should respond when God reveals His plan to us. When we are committed to Him, He will use us, and we should respond with praise for the opportunity to serve Him.

Do you still feel inadequate to fulfill God's role for you in His redemptive plan? Through Mary's example, we have learned that God expects us to be open to Him, to be aware of His plan, to submit to His plan, and to praise Him for the opportunity to serve Him. To overcome our human tendencies to feel inadequate to be a part of God's redemptive plan, we need to remember that God's plan can transcend human ability and limitations. The will of God will never take us where the grace and power of God cannot reach. God can do extraordinary things with ordinary people who are open and committed to Him.

*Stough is a member of First Church, Picayune.*

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## A Confident Life

John 14:1-14

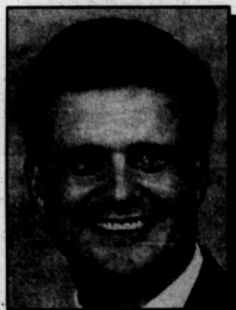
By Don Wilson

Dr. Francis Tyler, one of my professors at Blue Mountain College, helped motivate me to commit Scripture to memory. At 76 years of age, she stood in chapel and quoted the Sermon on the Mount. I was amazed most of all by the depth of her devotion to Jesus. I wanted that too. So I memorized Jesus' sermon. Years later my devotion deepened further when another message of Jesus was planted in my heart. John 14-17 became a part of me as I once again memorized and was mesmerized by Jesus' words.

### I. TRUST JESUS (John 14:1)

Jesus is faced with a difficult task. He had the job of preparing His close followers for that impending death. Yet,

at this point, they are not ready. So, in the hours preceding His arrest, Jesus opens His heart and talks simply, but profoundly about what "following" is all about. "Let not your hearts be troubled. Ye believe in God; believe also in me" (John 14:1). Jesus said that the key to having an untroubled heart is trust in God (which is also trust in Jesus). Throughout the book of John people had flocked to Jesus because of miracles that He accomplished. Early on in the book, Jesus talked about the difference between following because of miracles and following because of true faith in Him. Listen to His words in John 2:23-24 "...many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because



Wilson

He knew all men." Here in chapter 14, Jesus told his followers to trust in God, which, in reality, is trusting in Him (Jesus).

### II. KNOW THE WAY (John 14:2-7)

At the end of the last chapter (13:36) Peter had quizzed Jesus: "Lord, where are you going?" The only response there that he received was that He was going to a place that they could not follow Him to. Thomas posed a similar question: "We do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" (14:5). Those disciples must have expected a detailed road map. Jesus told them that He was going to His Father's house to get things ready for them, but just where is home? The ultimate answer is seen in Jesus' classic statement in verse 6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me." Jesus was telling them to put away the maps and look at

Him because He is the Way. Knowing the way to the place where Jesus was headed has more to do with knowing a Person - Jesus - than it does with knowing the roadmap.

### III. SEE THE FATHER (John 14:8-11)

Another disciple, Philip, joined the discussion: "Show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us" (John 14:8). The response of Jesus reaffirmed the message He had already been giving those who followed Him. The Father and Jesus are one and the same (5:19, 26, 37; 8:18, 29; 10:28-30). When anyone sees Jesus, he has seen God. Jesus was admonishing his disciples for their lack of understanding of this truth and exhorting them to grab hold of it.

### IV. ACCOMPLISH GREAT DEEDS (John 14:12-14)

Jesus noted that the key to effective service is faith in Him: "He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do and greater works than these shall

He do, because I go to My Father" (14:12). Jesus had already instructed his followers about the things He did and how He did the things He did. The key to the disciple's service would be found in their observation and duplication of God the Son's activity. The scope of Jesus' work would be expanded because once Jesus was gone, these disciples would be able to make request directly to the Father through Jesus' name. Praying in Jesus' name is not a formula to recite, but recognition of His identity as the Son of God, and His ability to accomplish His will. Jesus was about to exit the world, but He was leaving this helpless group of followers with a steadfast hope that God would accomplish His purposes through them. He left them with a profound peace that in the middle of trouble all was not lost. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (14:27).

*Wilson is pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church, Dumas.*

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no



text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242

e-mail: bcv1@misnet.com

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

NOVEMBER 1 - 15, 2002

### HONORS

**Dr. Gary Bolton**  
Bill & Senita Webb  
**Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Bowen & Family**  
Mr. Sherrell Sturdivant  
**Brother Billy Brumfield**  
Lucille Hilderbrand's Sunday School, Immanuel BC  
**Midge Buckley**  
John Buckley's Sunday School, N Columbia BC  
**Ernestine Criswell**  
Ruth Sunday School, Tate BC-Corinth  
**Dewitt Davis**  
Discipleship Training Class, N Columbia BC  
**John & Mildred Gay**  
Mr. Ron E. Bosarge  
**Mrs. Dixie Justice**  
The Shufflers Canasta Club  
**Mrs. George L. Mason**

**Mr. George L. Mason**  
**Brother Joey McGill**  
Lucille Hilderbrand's Sunday School, Immanuel BC  
**Charles W. Renfrow**  
Mrs. Edna Gilliland  
**Mr. & Mrs. Breland Sparkman**  
Ms. Charlotte J. Lowery  
**Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Wallace**  
Mr. & Mrs. Percy Peeler  
**Gene & Carol White**  
Mr. Sherrell Sturdivant  
**MEMORIALS**  
**Lois Adkerson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
**Mrs. Pearl Alexander**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
**Curtis "Pop" Allen**  
Ms. Faye C. Kelly  
**Harriet Allen**  
Lydia Sunday School, FBC-Starkville  
**Hugh Allred**  
Mrs. Wilma N. Kidd  
**Dr. Billy Anderson**  
Bill & Senita Webb  
**Grady Anderson**  
Mrs. Frances Hicks  
**Mr. Grady Anderson**  
Ms. Maxine Ainsworth  
**Mr. Winford Ashley**  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry E. Johns  
**Winford C. Ashley**  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Jordan  
**Ethel Aston**  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
Bill & Deena Barbee  
**Icenur Ballard**  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
**Lane Barrett**  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald K. Robbins  
**G. F. Beissel**  
Mr. & Mrs. Odie Smith Jr.  
**Mr. Hiram H. Berry**  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde A. Cole  
**Mr. Harvey Bird**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill F. Duncan  
Mrs. Martha Ann May Klaus  
**Hannah Nicole Blount**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Blount  
**Mr. Gallaway Boleware**  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde A. Cole  
**Mrs. Beulah Bosarge**  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Ehlers  
**Josephine Bratachi**

**Dr. Jack Q. Causey**  
**Ellaine Bratton**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Amos  
**Sedric Brock**



Tombigbee Finance and Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Killough have contributed \$2,000 to The Baptist Children's Village. Pictured Dr. Jim Alford of The BCV and Jimmy Killough.

**Mr. Charles Farrior**  
**Mrs. Daisy Ferguson**  
Ms. Rosa B. Wade  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Gelston

**Mrs. Bessie Gray**  
Mr. John E. Gray Jr.  
**Mrs. Edna M. Haley**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
**Maxine Hammack**  
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Blair  
**Billy Ray Hankins**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack B. Martin  
**Elijah Thomas Harper**  
Mr. & Mrs. Neil E. Wrenn  
**Ms Elizabeth Jane Harrelson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry W. Lee  
**Larry Hawkins**  
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Parham  
**Douglas N. Hays, Sr.**  
Hon. Cynthia D. Davis  
**Mr. Brian Hemphill**  
Ms. Esther Alford  
**Mrs. Era Hennington**  
Mrs. Fidella P. Davis  
**Clemmie Hensley**  
Heatcraft, Inc.  
**Mr. Leon Hester**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby R. Benton  
Matt Benton  
**Mrs. Dorothy Hewitt**  
Misses Sue & Hettie E. Williams  
**Carolyn C. Hill**  
Ms. Ruth E. Headley  
Mrs. Mary K. Evans  
**Mrs. Jessie Lee Hilton**  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger M. Myrick  
**Mr. Guy Hopkins**  
Mrs. Martha Ann May Klaus  
**Annie Horvath**  
Mrs. Ruth D. LeRosen

Ms. Esther Alford  
**Robert Mason Broom**  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox  
Mr. & Mrs. Olen S. Broom  
**Sgt. Hilton L. Brown**  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Gene Cryder  
**Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bryant**  
Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor  
**Mrs. Sandra Bullock**  
Mrs. Bal Mobley  
**Becky Burch**  
Ms. Kimberly L. Jordan  
**Mr. Jim Burris**  
Mr. & Mrs. H. Wayne Johnston  
**Vester L. Busby**  
Mrs. Mera C. Hall  
**Mr. Oscar Cameron**  
Ms. Norine Barnes  
**L. D. Carrier**  
Mrs. Ruth D. LeRosen  
**Horace Cato**  
Ms. Betsy Smith  
**Mary Lou Causey**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Tadlock  
**Sid Champion, Jr.**  
Mrs. Sid S. Champion Jr.  
**Lillian Cockroft**  
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip R. Hilton  
**Hugh Cole**  
Mrs. Berteel Robbins  
**Mr. Peter Corage**  
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Smith  
**Mr. Albert Creel**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Bradford  
**Gerald Crosby**  
Ms. Alana Greer  
**Mr. Hosea Crutchfield**  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry W. Lee  
**Sporty Dabbs**  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox  
**Mrs. Betty C. Davis**  
Mrs. Karen M. Settlemires  
**Rebecca Davis**  
Mrs. Emma Jo Smith  
**Shirley Rebecca Davis**  
Actioneers, FBC-Hazlehurst  
**Sister Rebecca Davis**  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth M. Davis  
**Mary S. Dennis**  
Ms. Rosemary M. Schaff  
**Leigh Ann Downs**  
Mrs. Wilma N. Kidd  
**Ben Dunn**  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Washington  
**Kim Edwards**  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Edwards  
**Johnnie Erwin**  
Mrs. Opal D. Blakemore  
**Mr. Julian Evans**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Evans  
**Edward V. Farrior**

**Becky Fisk**  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Edwards  
**Frank A. Fortenberry**  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox  
**Mrs. Edith Foster**  
Mrs. J. B. Lewis  
**Mrs. Herbert (Dot) Freeman**  
Mr. Walter Bounds  
Mrs. Mary K. Evans



Charles Renfrow and Rev. Billy Brumfield both received service Danna pins at the luncheon. Mr. Renfrow was awarded for five years of Mr. Cecil Johnson service and Rev. Brumfield for 10 years of service.

**Mr. Danny Hubbard**  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry W. Lee  
**Mr. Joe Jack Hurst**  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Gene Cryder  
Brothers & Sisters of Evelyn Lewis  
Mrs. Sadie Ruth A. Scott  
**Mrs. Eva Ivey**  
Bill & Senita Webb  
**Vinson Horace Jellenc**  
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Neal  
**Mr. Stansel H. Jennings**  
Mrs. J. B. Lewis  
**Walter L. Johns**  
Ms. Ann S.

**W. L. "Tobe" Freeny**  
Jimmy & Cindy Crain  
Bill & Freddie Ann Greer  
**Evelyn Rebekah Fulton**  
Mr. & Mrs. Neil E. Wrenn  
**Mrs. Maggie Garner**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
**Mr. Calvin Gates**  
Mr. & Mrs. Fredrick E. Forbes  
**Mr. Tommy Gelston**  
Mrs. J. B. Lewis  
Dale, Penny & Graham Scott  
Sarah C. Scott  
Jeff, Becky, Emily & Adam Thomas  
Mrs. Edith M. Aldridge  
Bill Barrett  
Sue Barrett  
Ms. Betty B. Branscome  
Billy & Betty Bufkin  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Lammons  
**Darrett Gibson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Cropp  
**Rosie Goddard**  
Mrs. Wilma N. Kidd  
**Mr. Rick Goodson**  
Mrs. Juanita Goodson  
**Mrs. Erma J. Gough**  
Mr. & Mrs. E. Wayne Smith  
**Charles Grantham**  
Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Witcher

Mrs. Joan M. Scott  
**Mr. Eddie Jones**  
Border Springs Baptist Church  
**Randy Jones**  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Douglas  
**Carroll Karlak**  
Mrs. Betty Jo Schmidt  
**Dr. Prentiss F. Keyes**  
Mr. & Mrs. Rhen W. Pierce  
Dr. and Mrs. William B. Thompson  
**Zana Kilpatrick**  
Mr. & Mrs. Odie Smith Jr.  
**Patricia King**  
Heatcraft, Inc.  
**Mr. Alfred F. "Slick" Kyle**  
Mr. Kyle Hearn  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Moore  
Ms. Jenille W. Weaver  
Minact, Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. Odie Smith, Jr.  
**Dan Kyle**  
Mr. Kyle Hearn  
**Ruth Weaver Kyle**  
Mr. Kyle Hearn  
**Mr. Lester Lambert**  
Mr. Mike Daughdrill  
**Helen Lane**  
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Lynch



Rev. Ronny Robinson, executive director, and Brownie Crawford, board president, shake hands after a gift presentation to Rev. Robinson on behalf of the board.



# State conventions hold annual meetings

## HAWAII

Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention messengers adopted a \$2 million-plus budget, forwarding 31.5 percent of CP receipts to SBC causes, and approved a five-year partner-

sizing evangelism, church planting and missions involvement. Messengers approved a \$4.56 million budget, sending 32.5 percent of CP receipts to SBC missions and ministries, and approved a new three-year

partnership with eastern Ukraine. Jim Hamilton of Sellersburg was elected president and resolutions included support for EKG and opposition to taxation of church property.

## KANSAS-NEBRASKA

Messengers re-elected Glenn Davis of Salina as president and thanked R. Rex "Peck" Lindsay for his 25 years of service as executive director of the Kansas-

Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists. Messengers approved a \$5.74 million budget, sending 31.75 percent of CP receipts to SBC causes, and a resolution affirming the burgeoning Covenant Marriage Movement.

Missionary Union; volunteerism in eastern Kentucky missions; churches as houses of prayer; Kentucky Baptist colleges; and unity and cooperation among Kentucky Baptists. Messengers also voted to reaffirm a 1996 resolution condemning partial-birth abortion.

## LOUISIANA

Louisiana Baptists voted 819-370 to approve inclusion of the BF&M in convention bylaws, affirming inerrancy of Scripture in the state convention and agreeing the convention will work in accordance with that principle. Messengers defined a cooperating church as one that gives through the state Cooperative Program and clarified the system of employing and administering associational directors of missions. Messengers were assured that Louisiana College, the Louisiana Baptist Messenger, Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and the Baptist Retirement Center remain tied to the convention. A flat \$23.9 million budget was approved, continuing to send 35 percent to the SBC. Steve James of Lake Charles was re-elected president. Resolutions addressed pornography, human cloning, abortion, gambling and homosexuality, while also affirming the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the war on terrorism and the nation of Israel.

Baptist Children's Home, Southwest Baptist University, Hannibal-LaGrange College and William Jewell University, each receiving \$100,000, with \$200,000 allocated to church planting and \$750,000 for next year's state missions offering. Springfield pastor Kenny Qualls was elected president and a new partnership with Romanian Baptists was approved. Bylaw references to the Word & Way as the official newsjournal were removed and messengers approved a \$17.5 million budget, forwarding 35.75 to SBC causes. Resolutions addressed Internet pornography and the responsibility of citizens to vote.

## MONTANA

The Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship celebrated 50 years of organized work in the state by voting to move from fellowship status to full convention status with the Southern Baptist Convention. Messengers approved a \$1.43 million budget, sending 22 percent of CP receipts to SBC causes. B.G. Stumberg of East Helena was elected president. Messengers approved a resolution commending Yellowstone Baptist College president Bill Phillips and others contributing to record enrollment and expansion.

## NEVADA

Messengers elected Eddie Hancock of Winne-mucca as president and passed a \$2.5 million budget, reporting that the convention's building indebtedness had been paid, freeing up more funds for ministry. Nevada Baptists raised the portion of CP receipts forwarded to SBC missions and ministries by .25 percent.

## NEW ENGLAND

Baptist Convention of New England messengers elected Mark Ballard of Londonderry, N.H., as president and endorsed his recommendation to plan an intentional prayer strategy for the five-state convention.

Constitutional changes creating two new board committees were approved and resolutions commended disaster relief teams assisting New York City following Sept. 11, President Bush's call for prayer and the Baptist Convention of New England staff for bringing the convention through a financial crisis of two years earlier. Messengers approved a flat budget of \$2.73 million, forwarding 21 percent of Cooperative Program receipts to SBC causes.

## MISSOURI

Missouri Baptists installed their new executive director, David Clippard, who supported the refusal of messengers to drop legal action against five breakaway convention entities. Messengers also approved releasing \$2.1 million in escrow for the entities that became self-perpetuating, now forwarding the funds to the Missouri

## KENTUCKY

Paul Badgett of Pikeville was elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention — the first unopposed nominee in more than a decade. A flat \$24.5 million budget was approved, forwarding 36 percent to SBC missions and ministries. Messengers passed resolutions praising Kentucky Woman's

## INDIANA

Honored for 12 years of service as executive director, retiring Charles W. Sullivan praised the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana for empha-

ship with the Japan Baptist Mission of the International Mission Board. Dan Van Alstine of Mililani was elected president and Executive Director O.W. Efurd brought his last report to the messengers, having announced his retirement for March.

## ILLINOIS

Messengers to the Illinois Baptist State Association approved a flat budget of \$5.9 million, forwarding 42 percent of CP receipts to SBC causes. Cut from the budget was funding for a newly created position of associate executive director, while agreeing to further study. Larry Richmond of O'Fallon was re-elected president.

## IOWA

Messengers to the Iowa Baptist Convention re-elected David Miller of Cedar Rapids as president and approved a \$1.69 million budget, forwarding 20 percent of CP receipts to SBC causes. A state convention emphasis similar to Empowering Kingdom Growth (EKG) was endorsed and resolutions included an expression of appreciation to state staff.



AMD OFFICERS — Officers for the Mississippi Conference of Associational Missions Directors are (from left) Alton Phillips, Mississippi Association, President; Jim Harrington, Monroe Association, Treasurer; J. C. Prather, Prentiss Association, President-Elect; and Paul Blanchard, Winston Association, Secretary. (BR photo by Tony Martin)



MBREA OFFICERS — Mississippi Baptist Religious Educators Association (MBREA) officers for the coming year are (from left) Aubry Martin, First Church, Richland, President; Mike McCool, Ridgecrest Church, Madison, President-elect; Tim Alexander, Harrisburg Baptist, Tupelo, First Vice-President; Steve Ogle, Temple Church, Hattiesburg, Second Vice-President; and Lewis Harrell, First Church, Pontotoc, Secretary/Treasurer. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 2002

ELY RC TEPY ILWM

WRCN, WRC TEKKEWR

UET NEYC JMQ NEL,

ELY LMW NEL JMQ WRC

TEKKEWR.

NEQA WUM:

WUCLWV-CPORW

Clue:

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Two:Twenty-Eight